**EXHIBIT "B"** 





MOSBILL I COLE\*
EDWASO M SCHOTZ
MICHAEL H. FORMAN
STANLEY STERNAU
THOMAS J. LA CONTE TROMAS J. CA CONTE HANCE A. MILLER BERALD H. GLINE HAROLD N. TOLCHINSKY... STEVEN H. KLÜN MARC R. BERMARK WENLY M. BERGERL SAMUEL WEINER RICHARD W. ABRAMSOND RICHARD W. ABRAMSON MICHAEL R. LEIGHTONA STEVEN D. LFIPZIGA GORDON C. DUUS STUART KOMKOWERA GLENN R. KAZLOW MICHAEL D. SROTAA ALAN INDOMI--

https://dawn.flied.flogt.flutg.flog.gov.

ALAM NOBINE STEVENT, ACILER NACHASE, E. KONES (XONALO A. OTTAUNICK A.

RERECCA K. SPARIA
LECV. LEVVAA
DAVID M. KOHAREA
JAN ALAN LEWISA
JEPPREY H. SCHECHTERA
IKANA VOLKOVA
MITCHELL W. ABRAHAMS
AMPOR PRESSA
EEVAMPID S. KRE!
KENNETH I. RAUMA
STEPREH K. HEPPER
JURIA WOOLA
GORN M. ALRISCHIA
WOOLA
GORN M. PALESCHIA
JORDANA RECH
RICHAEL
JORDANA RECH
RICHAEL
JORDANA PECH
RICHAEL
JORDANA FECH
RICHAEL
JORDANA F

CABLA, 69270 GCRARD M, GIORGANO orgalal courses

A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION COUNSELLORS AT LAW COURT PLAZA NORTH

> as MAIN STREET P.O. BOX 600

HACKENSACK, NEW JERSEY 07602-0800

(201) 489-3000 FAX (200 489-1536)

FELECOMMUNICATION DEVICE FOR THE DEAF (201) 489-3479

> YES THIS AVENUE NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10012

(2)2)752-0110 FAX (212) 751-9638 RORERT L SCERRO STARON REIDER BABBA NICHAEL A MINIERIA JEFFREY M. TRAURIGA (185 LI AMARO JR. A MICHAEL, N. MOREAA ROBERT K. ROSSA JELEN J. CHANGE MELEN J. CHANG SUSAN M. USATINE SAMES T. KHA CARMEN ANDRADEA CAMMEN APRIAMA. A SEAN M. LIPSKY A (DAVID P. STEINBERGER MACK, J. POLITAN A KELLY A. KOLAN A. CHRISTOPHER J. CASLIN A. 

DAMIAN I. ALBERGODA JASON R. MREZERA ALBSON R. LANGE DAVID T. SHVASA AAV C. BUCKA KRISTIN S. FLEDOTIA MATTHEW R. KARLANA MATTHEW R. KARLANA MATTHE L. WOOLFEED NATITY WAS PLEN-PATRICIA A DUGAN NOTTE P. AL WARADOA ROGER M. KORIOA ANTONIO G. CAMMALLERI MATTHEW E. FERNAMIA GIA G. INCARDONE DOGROPH MELLO LAGUZZAA CHRISTOPHER P. MASSARID SCOTT M. BROWN ANGREW 8 FISHER MICHELE L. MATHERS

▲ NU A NY GANS ■ NO A PA CARS ★ FCY SOAS ONLY

REPLY TO HACKENSACK OFFICE

WANTER'S DIRECT LINE. (2011/525/6267 CONTENTS THREE CLEAR COMMAND (203) 678-6267 WORLD BUS FINAL ADDRESS

May 5, 2005

## VIA FACSIMILE (WITHOUT ATTACHMENTS) AND FEDERAL EXPRESS

Honorable Kevin Nathaniel Fox United States Magistrate Judge United States Courthouse 40 Centre Street, Room 540 New York, NY 10007-1581

> Campinas Foundation v. Carl Simoni, et al. Re:

> > Docket No. 02 CV 3965

Dear Judge Fox:

I write in response to William Laino, Esq.'s May 2, 2005 letter, in which he unfortunately extends our already extended argument on the two subpoenas he issued to Cole, Schotz, Meisel, Forman & Leonard P.A. and Michael S. Meisel, Esq.

Communications between this firm and Lowenstein Sandler. Mr. Laino letter asserts, first, that this Court's November 18, 2004 decision held that the "New York and New Jersey actions did not involve the same common legal interest as required to invoke the joint desense privilege." The common interest privilege, however, is not between lawsuits; it is between parties. On November 18, this Court held that Campinas had not proven that Campinas had a common interest with Alberto Lensi or Heidi Eckes-Chaptre

The question now before the Court involves different parties. The question is whether our clients, Aviation Investors International Group, Ltd. ("AHG") and its affiliates (together, "Aviation Investors"), had and continue to have a common interest with AHG's principal shareholder, Blackbird Aviation Ltd. ("Blackbird"), and its sole director, Mr.

Honorable Kevin Nathaniel Fox May 5, 2005 Page 2

Lensi. Mr. Wild and his firm represented both Blackbird and Mr. Lensi in the New Jersey actions.

As previously noted, Mr. Laino's clients sued AHG, Blackbird and Lensi in two New Jersey cases. In 2003, Mr. Simoni and his company, ComJet, filed a counterclaim and third-party complaint (Ex. A.) against Aviation Investors, Blackbird, Mr. Lensi and Mrs. Eckes-Chantre claiming that they jointly acted to wrongfully terminate ComJet as Aviation Investors' managing agent. Another Simoni company, Redwood Investment Corp. ("Redwood") also filed a separate lawsuit (Ex. B) against Aviation Investors, Mr. Lensi, Ms. Eckes-Chantre and Blackbird claiming that they jointly "orchestrated" several fraudulent conveyances to prevent Mr. Simoni from collecting Redwood's 2001 arbitration award. Aviation Investors and Mr. Wild's clients in those cases had an identical legal interest in defeating Simoni/ComJet's claims that ComJet's termination was wrongful and Simoni's/Redwood's claims that they jointly and wrongfully acted to defeat Redwood's award.

Leaving aside that Mr. Laino has reversed his position on whether Campinas has identical interests with Mr. Lensi and Ms. Eckes-Chantre¹ now that this Court held that there was no common interest privilege among those parties, the issue before the Court is whether there is a common interest between Aviation Investors, Blackbird and its sole director, Mr. Lensi. Aviation Investors respectfully submits that its papers and arguments of counsel have demonstrated that Aviation Investors, Blackbird and Mr. Lensi had and continue to have an identical legal interest in defeating Redwood's judgment and defending AIIG's termination of ComJet and that communications between counsel for those parties – i.e., this firm and Lowenstein Sandler – are therefore protected by the common interest privilege at least as of the time Lowenstein Sandler began representing Blackbird and Mr. Lensi.

Simoni Was Within Aviation Investors' Privilege Up to the Time of the 2001 Arbitration, But Was Not This Firm's Client: Mr. Laino says that if Mr. Simoni were part of AHG's litigation control group at the time of the 2001 arbitration, then Mr. Meisel could not have represented AHG adverse to Mr. Simoni in the subsequent disputes. Mr. Laino overlooks that not all corporate agents who are within the corporation's privilege with its counsel are also counsel's clients.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> <u>See</u> April 11, 2005 Laino letter page 4, note 5 (asserting "defendants' position" that there is an "identical interest between AHG, Campinas, Mr. Lensi and Ms. Ekes-Chantre").

Honorable Kevin Nathaniel Fox May 5, 2005 Page 3

The arbitration hearing in December 2001 focused on whether one of AIIG's past employees and directors, Maxime Sadowsky, was terminated for cause, such that the efforts by his company, the original claimant, to have its shares in AIIG bought out would be defeated, and also whether AIIG's largest shareholder, Blackbird, could veto the claimant's effort to liquidate the company. Mr. Simoni was in-house president of AIIG during the relevant periods, but by the time of the arbitration, he had formed a separate company, ComJet, and was running AIIG as an outside consultant. At the time, AIIG did not contend the Simoni was terminated for cause and was not defending the cross-claim Simoni's company, Redwood, had asserted to have its interest bought out.

Simoni's communications with Mr. Meisel in preparation for the arbitration hearing were within AIIG's privilege because the communications concerned matters within the scope of Simoni's duties as AIIG's president and agent and Mr. Simoni was aware that his communications with Meisel were for the purpose of AIIG obtaining legal advice. See Upjohn Company v. United States, 449 U.S. 383, 394-397 (1981). Simoni was within AIIG's privilege both because the arbitration concerned matters within Simoni's knowledge as AIIG's past president, see, e.g., id. at 403 (Burger, C.J., concurring) and AI-Turki v. Fenn, 1995 WL 213278 (S.D.N.Y. 1995), and because he continued to run the company as an outside consultant. See Copper Market Antitrust Litigation, 200 F.R.D. 213, 219 (S.D.N.Y. 2001) (holding that for privilege purposes, and applying Upjohn, "there is no reason to distinguish between a person on the corporation's payroll and a consultant hired by the corporation if each acts for the corporation and possesses the information needed by attorneys in rendering legal advice.") That privilege, however, belongs to AIIG, not to Simoni. See United States v. International Brotherhood of Teamsters, et al., 119 F.3d 210, 215 (2d Cir. 1997).

Because Mr. Simoni was not this firm's client, Mr. Laino's contention that Mr. Meisel was disqualified from litigating adverse to Simoni after his falling out with AHG is untenable. See Culver v. Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc., 1997 WL 223088, 4 (S.D.N.Y. 1997) In Culver, plaintiffs sued their former employer, Merrill Lynch, and sought to disqualify Merrill Lynch's counsel because he had interviewed plaintiffs in connection with a securities investigation while plaintiffs were still employed by Merrill Lynch. Id. at 1-2. The court determined that Merrill Lynch's counsel was not barred from being adverse to plaintiffs because an attorney-client relationship between plaintiffs and Merrill Lynch's

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Indeed, once Simoni left, AHG had no employees and was run entirely by outside consultants.

Honorable Kevin Nathaniel Fox May 5, 2005 Page 4

counsel never existed. <u>Id.</u> at 4. The court reasoned, "[u]nless the parties have agreed otherwise in the circumstances of a particular matter, <u>a lawyer for a corporation represents</u> the corporation, <u>not its employees.</u>" <u>Id.</u> (emphasis added)

Here, this firm has consistently represented Aviation Investors and never represented or agreed to represent Simoni in his individual capacity. In fact, Simoni had his own lawyer, Adam Derman, in the arbitration. As the billing records attached as Exhibit 2 to Mr. Laino's April 11, 2005, letter to the Court reflect, Mr. Derman attended at least one of the preparation sessions, at this firm, with Mr. Simoni, Mr. Meisel, Mr. Lensi and Mr. Rosen. (See billing entries for 12/10/01.) Therefore, no attorney-client relationship existed between this firm and Mr. Simoni, and disqualification is not appropriate.<sup>3</sup>

We respectfully request that the Court reject defendants' application.

Respectfully yours,

COLE, SCHOTZ, MEISEL, FORMAN & LEONARD, P.A.

David M. Kohane

DMK:ifv

ce: William P. Laino, Esq., via telecopy Jeffrey Wild, Esq., via telecopy Mr. Richard Fish, via telecopy

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> In a footnote Mr. Laino re-asserts that Mr. Simoni was adverse to AIIG during the pre-arbitration meetings in which he met with Messrs. Meisel, Lensi, Derman and Rosen to prepare for the December 2001 hearing. He also asserts that Redwood's cross-claim was discussed during those preparation sessions. He offers no support for that assertion. As explained in text, Redwood's cross-claim was not being defended at the time; there was no reason to discuss it; and Mr. Simoni was present as AIIG's agent, to help AIIG prepare for the hearing.